

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:434
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2003
TECHNOLOGY MISSION FOR RURAL ELECTRIFICATION
DUKHA BHAGAT;RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to set up a Technology Mission for rural electrification;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the main purpose of setting up of this mission;
- (d) whether the mission have any aim at development of appropriate technologies that suit rural conditions; and
- (e) the extent to which the setting up of a Mission is likely to prove useful?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)

(a) to (e) : Government has set up a Rural Electricity Supply Technology Mission(REST) under the auspices of the Minister of Power. The composition of the Mission is as under :-

- (i) Secretary (Power) Chairman
- (ii) Secretary, Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources Member
- (iii) Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development Member
- (iv) Director General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research Member
- (v) Chairman, Central Electricity Authority Member
- (vi) CMD, Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. Member
- (vii) CMD, National Thermal Power Corporation Member
- (viii) Director General, Central Power Research Institute Member
- (ix) Joint Secretary (Dist), Ministry of Power Member

The Chairman may co-opt representatives from institutions who are actively involved in distributed generation and who are representatives from industries.

The main purpose of this Mission would be to evolve a strategy based on technology which could provide for low cost power generation and low cost of delivery in the rural areas which can be managed by local institutions like Village Panchayats and NGOs; identify feasible size of generating units for different fuels, which are locally available, and for mini and micro hydel projects; suggest type of technologies to be adopted for setting up local distribution networks with or without connectivity to the Grid and to cover at least 25% of the villages in the country under the Mission, and to access funds requirements for the next two Plans.

It is envisaged that REST Mission could be in a position to accelerate the process of technology development and technology adoption for distributed generation in a manner that the rural areas will have qualitative and reliable power at affordable prices.